

Our mission: The Mission of the Youth Alliance for a Healthier Alaska is to advise the Adolescent Health Program and other health programs and to create interventions designed to improve the lives of adolescents in Alaska.

Who we are: We are a group of diverse, energetic teens ages 14-18 from across Alaska. We are interested in health and are enthusiastic about shaping how our state responds to youth issues that we all experience.

2016-2017 Members:

Alyssa, 17, Unalaska Mariella, 18, Anchorage

Evangeline, 17, Anchorage Julia, 16, Palmer

Alleri, 14, Unalaska Louella, 16, Unalaska

What we can do: In the 2016-17 school year we want to help make decisions, provide insight, and give advice on a wide spectrum of adolescent health topics. We will review materials created for teens by various health programs and will serve as a review committee before materials are designed or distributed. We also will be partnering with community organizations in the creation of a community action plan to address a youth related challenge that our home towns and villages may be struggling with.

Why listen to us? Youth voice is critical to the success of any program or intervention targeting youth and we are trained to give professional and constructive advice.

What we're doing: We meet on the first Saturday or Sunday of every month throughout the school year. We have served as a focus group for a dating violence prevention campaign, many prevention media campaigns, a suicide prevention organization, and others.

To see us in action and benefit from our expertise, please contact us to participate in one of our monthly meetings!

Get in touch with us: Email or call Jennifer Baker, Adolescent Health Program Manager in the Department of Health and Social Services, Section of Women's Children's and Family Health: jennifer.baker@alaska.gov or (907) 269-4517. Until then, please visit our website: http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/adolescent/yaha.aspx.